

British Oribatidæ. By ALBERT D. MICHAEL, F.L.S., F.R.M.S., &c.
Vol. II. 8vo. Printed for the Ray Society, London, 1888.

AFTER the lapse of something more than three years we have the pleasure of calling our readers' attention to the publication of the second volume of Mr. Michael's admirable work on the British Oribatidæ. It forms the Ray Society's volume for 1887, and so fully supports the character which we gave of its predecessor that we have no occasion to do much more than announce its appearance.

The volume opens with an amended table of the genus *Teygeocranus*, rendered necessary by the detection in Britain of three species of that genus (two of them described as new) since the publication of the first volume. Descriptions and tables follow of nineteen species of *Notaspis*, seven of *Damæus*, six of *Hermannia*, two of *Eremaeus*, thirteen of *Nothrus*, four of *Hypochthonius*, five of *Hoplophora*, and two of *Scutovertex* (with an amended table), making together fifty-four species, all of which are described and figured with the same care and detail as those cited in the former volume. Of these fourteen, or about one fourth, are described as new species; and several of the others, especially belonging to the genus *Notaspis*, have been previously described by the author in the 'Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society.' The habits and transformations of the species are described in the same careful manner as in the preceding volume, and the work is rendered more complete by the addition of further notes on the species therein noticed.

In an appendix Mr. Michael gives us an amended classification of the genera belonging to this curious family of Mites, a further contribution to the knowledge of their anatomy, some interesting notes on the phenomena attending the change from the nymph to the adult state, a bibliography of the literature relating to the Oribatidæ, and last, but not least, a list, with brief notes and references, of recorded species of the family which are not known to occur in Britain. The list is a long one: but, as the author points out, many of the species are imperfectly described and figured, and may turn out to be identical with other recognized species, while some of the names may represent immature forms.

Under any circumstances, whether we consider the full and careful descriptions, or the beautiful series of illustrations, or the manner in which the author has summarized the labours of his predecessors, we have in these volumes one of the most complete treatises that can be conceived, and future students of the Acarina will owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Michael for his labours, and to the Ray Society for producing their results in so admirable a form.